

**DELTA PROTECTION COMMISSION**

14219 RIVER ROAD  
P.O. BOX 530  
WALNUT GROVE, CA 95690  
PHONE: (916) 776-2290  
FAX: (916) 776-2293



May 16, 1995

To: Delta Protection Commission  
From: Margit Aramburu, Executive Director  
Subject: Materials on San Luis Drain, Agenda Item #10

Attached for your consideration on May 25, 1995 are:

- \* A draft resolution opposing release of San Luis Drain wastewaters into the delta.
- \* A memo prepared by the Contra Costa County staff about the San Luis Drain.
- \* A fact sheet from the Bureau of Reclamation regarding the San Luis Drain.

5/16/95

DRAFT RESOLUTION  
REGARDING THE SAN LUIS DRAIN

WHEREAS, the Legislature has found that the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta is a natural resource of statewide, national, and international significance, containing irreplaceable resources, and it is the policy of the state to recognize, preserve, and protect those resources of the delta for the use and enjoyment of current and future generations; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature has found that the basic goals of the state for the delta include protecting, maintaining, and where possible enhancing and restoring the overall quality of the delta environment; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature has found that the delta's wildlife and wildlife habitats, including waterways, vegetated unleveed channel islands, wetlands, and riparian forests and vegetation corridors are highly valuable providing critical wintering habitat for waterfowl and other migratory birds using the Pacific Flyway as well as certain plant species, various rare and endangered wildlife species of birds, mammals, and fish, and numerous amphibians, reptiles, and invertebrates, that these wildlife species and their habitat are valuable, unique, and irreplaceable resources of critical statewide significance and that it is the policy of the state to preserve and protect these resources and their diversity for the enjoyment of current and future generations; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature had found that the resource values of the delta have deteriorated and that further deterioration threatens the maintenance and sustainability of the delta's ecology, fish and wildlife populations, recreational opportunities, and economic productivity; and

WHEREAS, the Delta Protection Commission has prepared and adopted a Land Use and Resource Management Plan for the Primary Zone of the Delta which recommends that programs to enhance the natural values of the state's aquatic habitats and water quality will benefit the Delta and should be supported, and recommends that water quality at Delta drinking water intakes should be maintained or enhanced, and

WHEREAS, historically, Central Valley agricultural wastewaters were released into the Kesterson National Wildlife Refuge resulting in tragic losses of wildlife and ultimately resulting in the closing of both the drain and the refuge in 1985; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation has been working to minimize the volume of drainage water thus solving the problem "in-Valley" and the Bureau's current position is that "the social and environmental unacceptability of the alternative [disposal into the Delta] precludes further consideration at this time"; and

WHEREAS, on December 2, 1994 Judge Oliver Wanger of the U.S. District Court found that the Bureau of Reclamation has an obligation to provide drainage to the San Luis Unit and directed the Bureau to apply for a discharge permit for the San Luis drain; and,

WHEREAS, the San Luis Drain has a planned discharge point in the Delta;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Delta Protection Commission opposes release of wastewaters from the San Luis drain into the delta waters, recommends that Congress no longer consider delta disposal to be a viable solution to San Joaquin Valley drainage problems, and favors a drainage program which does not export agricultural waste out of the valley.

####